

THE CHRONICLE

Todd Reeves, Superintendent

Greetings! I hope the new year brings you many wonderful opportunities. At WSD, we're pleased about this new opportunity to publish a bi-monthly newsletter as a way of keeping you informed of activities at the school and the achievements of our students. Hopefully, you will find the articles in this first newsletter interesting. But we want to make each newsletter more interesting than the last, and in order to do that, we need your input. If you have specific requests for upcoming newsletter articles, please email me your suggestions at: todd.reeves@wsd.wa.gov

Institute of Public Policy Report: The Institute of Public Policy (IPP) will be submitting a report about WSD to the legislature in the coming weeks. This report is extremely important because it will contain recommendations regarding WSD and its future. Last year, WSD requested funding for a new vocational education/cafeteria/multi-purpose building. Although we received a significant level of support from legislators in southwest Washington, other legislators questioned the future need for both WSD and the School for the Blind. As a way of resolving disagreement about funding new construction, the legislature funded a study of the two schools to compare how each operates, how we can complement the services to students in public schools, what kind of construction and renovation of buildings should occur in the future, and whether the current governance of the two schools is appropriate. This report may have a significant impact on the future of WSD, and it's important that you stay informed of the report and its contents. You can access the initial draft of the report on WSD's website beginning January 5, 2006. This is not the final draft of the report: we expect the final draft of the report to be published shortly before or after the new year. If you have any questions about the report, please let me know! The facilities that are used to educate our students depends heavily on this report and how you – along with legislators – respond to it.

Governor's Supplemental Budget: Governor Gregoire recently included \$1,000,000 for the proposed vocational education/cafeteria/multi-purpose building in her supplemental budget that she submitted this past week. Though this amount will not completely fund the construction of the new building, it is an important endorsement that students at WSD are worthy of significant investment. Of course, the legislature must agree with Gov. Gregoire's recommended budget, and the IPP study will likely have a significant impact on how the legislature responds to her request on behalf of WSD and our students.

Again, I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and worthwhile. I look forward to your comments and ideas for improving the newsletter in the future. Please let me know how I can be of service to you and your children.

Kind Regards,
Todd

Upcoming Events

- 01/04/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Oregon School for the Deaf (A)
Girls @ 5:30 PM, Boys @ 7:00 PM
- 01/05/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Country Christian (H)
Girls @ 5:30 PM, Boys @ 7:00 PM
- 01/10/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Camas (H), Boys 7:00 PM
- 01/11/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Fort Vancouver (H), Girls @ 5:30 PM
- 01/12/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Camas (H)/Terrier Basketball vs. Van. Christian (H)
Girls @ 5:30 PM Boys @ 7:00 PM
- 01/16/06 Martin Luther King Day - No School
- 01/18/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Fort Vancouver (H), Boys @ 5:30 PM
- 01/19/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Hudson Bay (H)/Terrier Basketball vs. Camas (H)
Boys @ 6:00 PM Girls 7:30 PM
- 01/24/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Prairie (H)/Terrier Basketball vs. Ridgefield (H)
Girls @ 5:30 PM Boys @ 7:00 PM
- 01/26/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Ridgefield (A)/Terrier Basketball vs. Camas (H)
Girls @ 5:45 PM Boys @ 7:00 PM
- 01/30/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Fort Vancouver (H), Boys @ 5:30 PM
- 01/31/06 Terrier Basketball vs. Fort Vancouver (H), Girls @ 5:30 PM
- 02/02/06 - Western States Basketball Classic / Western States Cheerleading Competition
- 02/04/06 Locations: WSD and McLoughlin Middle School

(A) - Away
(H) - Home

Travel Days - **RED**
Non-school Days - **BLUE**
Sports Events - **GREEN**

January 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Academics

Lori Dunsmore, Principal

The New Year

The 2005-2006 school year has greeted the Academic Department with many changes. On-going professional development training sessions are being provided focusing on various strategies for successful teaching. These activities are designed to help teachers with new state and federal requirements.

Academic News

- ♦ **The Early Childhood Intervention** program continues to have Thursday morning playgroup sessions. These sessions are filled with opportunities for the children to develop interactive communication with family members with activities designed to provide exposure to sign language.
- ♦ **The Kindergarten Readiness Class** is using the Creative Curriculum which offers specialized center based learning activities focusing on different language based areas. In the afternoon, students meet with two teachers to provide specialized instruction to develop their language skills.
- ♦ **The Elementary Department** has had changes to the schedule. Library Libby has visited several times and has been greeted with big smiles from enthusiastic kids eager to read and ready to learn more about books. Each week students also go to the library. ASL classes are also now being offered twice a week for elementary students from our ASL specialist.
- ♦ **Middle School** students lead their own discussions pertaining to safety indicators. Tuesdays and Fridays students lead their own class meetings. Every session consists of a leader, writer and a time keeper. The leader leads the discussion covering various safety topics such as **The Three R's of safety (respect of: self, things and others)**. Other topics have been covered such as: dress code, bullying, tease-proofing, safety reinforcement, school handbook, ASB and field trips.
- ♦ Students have been writing books following all five steps of the writing process; **prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing**. After the students printed, laminated, and bound their books, they translated their stories into American Sign Language.
- ♦ **The High School** – Science comes alive! Our new science teacher, Matt Stefano, continues to offer unique opportunities for students. Current topics have included hands-on projects to understand the five senses and discussing a developmental understanding of Earth's atmosphere. Students are given the opportunity to see the link to real life, with a classroom fish tank containing interesting critters like a hermit crab and walking sticks.
- ♦ **Fridays are different** – 9th and 10th graders are participating in mini courses to prepare for the upcoming WASL to satisfy new state graduation requirements.

Student Activities

- ♦ Elementary students met and talked about safety with Vancouver Fire Department. Kids also had the opportunity to explore the fire truck. Thanks Vancouver Fire Department for the fun activity on student safety!
- ♦ WSD has not had an active ASB (Associated Student Body) student government for several years. In November, some students participated in an all day student leadership training session. Students were encouraged to show their leadership abilities and empower students within the WSD community to reactivate the ASB student government. The first election of student officers will be held in early 2006. This is the beginning of a new ongoing process to encourage students to seek political voice within their community.
- ♦ December 5th, Representatives from RIT/NTID Trailblazers presented information on careers and the outlook for new jobs within the work force. The Trailblazers visited WSD along with other 4 schools on the west coast. Several high school juniors and seniors were invited to participate in a lunch meeting. Letters of acceptance have been offered to two high school students, Nick Gilles and Maura Mackey. They have been officially accepted for the entering class of 2006 at National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Congratulations!
- ♦ Traffic Safety Education is a favorite among the High school students, as they receive instruction driving around Vancouver with Mr. Mike Hair from ESD 112.

Coming up

- ♦ March 8th students will have the opportunity to see a dramatic performance held at the Oregon Children's Theatre. They are doing an adaptation of Lois Lowry's The Giver.
- ♦ March 2-4, 2006, Gallaudet University's **Regional Academic Bowl** for D/HH students at New Mexico School for the Deaf. Five students are currently training for the event with coaches David Born and Matt Stefano.
- ♦ Next newsletter will provide specific details in reference to graduating seniors, new curriculum adoption process and other activities happening in school.

Contact Numbers

All staff can be reached by dialing our main number of (360) 696-6525 or our toll free number (800) 613-4228 and once connected entering the four digit extension code found below.

Administration

Todd Reeves, Superintendent.....	x0400 (v/tty)
Rick Hauan, Assistant Superintendent.....	x0402 (v/tty)
Judy Smith, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.....	x0401 (v/tty)

Academics

Lori Dunsmore, Principal (Grades K-12).....	x4340 (v/tty)
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Elementary/Middle School

Lily Agerter, Secretary.....	x4331 (v/tty)
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High School

David Martin, Secretary.....	x4341 (v/tty)
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Residential

Residential Programs Supervisors

Nancy Sinkovitz (Girls).....	x4380 (v/tty)
Larry Cole (Boys).....	x4370 (v/tty)

Residential Deans

Rick Whitney, Swing Shift.....	x4282 (v/tty)
Penney Shepherd, Graveyard Shift.....	x1669 (tty)

Student Transportation

Sharon Caton, Secretary.....	x4361 (v/tty) (360) 921-1443 (cell)
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Monitors

East Bound 1.....	(360) 901-2009 (cell)
East Bound 2.....	(360) 607-8496 (cell)
North Bound 1.....	(360) 607-8497 (cell)
North Bound 2.....	(360) 607-8498 (cell)

Cottages

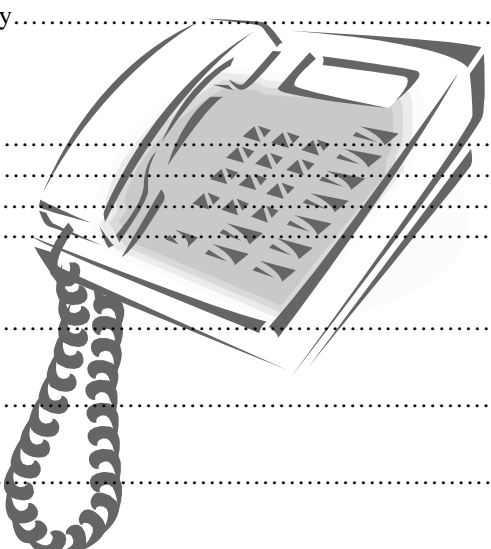
MacDonald East.....	x4335 - Staff (v/tty) x4336 - Students (v/tty)
MacDonald West.....	x4337 - Staff (v/tty) x4338 - Students (v/tty)
Roberts West.....	x4373 - Staff (v/tty) x4374 - Students (v/tty)
Watson East.....	x4375 - Staff (v/tty) x4367 - Students (v/tty)
Watson West.....	x4329 - Staff (v/tty) x4382 - Students (v/tty)

Student Health Center

Becky Munson & Linda Meier.....	x4333 (v/tty)
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Electives/Athletics

Jim Divine, Electives Program.....	x4377 (v/tty)
Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director.....	x4354 (v/tty)



Staff Travels to China

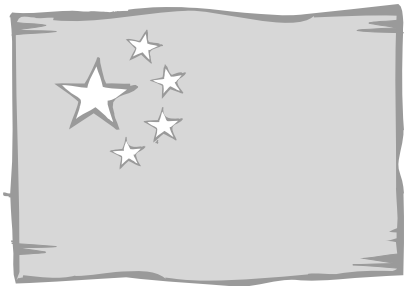
Colleen Engh, Nutrition Services Manager

Last month I had the opportunity to be part of a group of child nutrition delegates who were invited to go to China to participate in a cultural exchange of information. This was truly an awesome experience and I would like to share some of the highlights with everyone.

This trip was put together by People to People Ambassador Programs and the School Nutrition Association. The first is a company created by President Eisenhower in 1956 to ensure better communication between countries by creating information forums with working people of different professions. China had requested that people from the United States travel to China and share information on how we successfully manage our child nutrition programs in our country. I was able to spend two weeks not only sharing information with the Chinese schools but also learning about their way of preparing school meals. Both countries share a concern for childhood obesity and the challenge of getting students to “eat their vegetables!”

Since my roommate was from Japan (the only delegate not from the US), I was also able to learn a number of interesting facts about the school nutrition program in her country as well. The schools in Japan have started working with farmers to create gardens so the students learn first hand how the foods are grown. This has increased the participation in eating fresh fruits and vegetables in many of their schools. Since we have our master gardener, Michael Carney, working with our students to teach the same ideas I feel that we are emulating Japan and we are on the right track to creating healthier eating habits with our students.

We toured many schools and had a chance to interact with staff and students. One of the most enjoyable events was in a junior high classroom where we made pot stickers with the cooking class. Many of the students spoke English and appreciated the opportunity to talk with us about our country. And there is something about the laughter of a child that breaks through any language barriers to bring joy to your life. I am thankful that WSD administrators allowed me to be part of this wonderful occasion to learn about the vast culture and history in China!



How do I access the webpage with no computer or internet connection at home?

Our webpage is updated whenever new information needs to be shared with the families of our students and the public. Our webpage serves as an easy guide to find out information on the school and current events. We have had many families inform us that they have no computer or internet connection at home so they can not visit our webpage. What many families are not aware of is that the local public library in their region will allow members to use their computers for internet access free of charge. To sign up for a library membership, please visit your local public library and they can help you register.

With this in mind, we hope more families can learn about our school by using their local public library to access our webpage.

The Health Spot

Becky Munson, Nursing Supervisor



Is It a Cold or the Flu?

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Fever	Rare	Usually high 102-104, lasts 3-4 days
Headache	Rare	Severe
General aches and pains	Slight	Usual, often severe
Fatigue and weakness	Very mild	Can last up to 2-3 weeks
Extreme exhaustion	Never	Early and severe
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common, can become severe
Complications	Sinus congestion or earache	Bronchitis, pneumonia, can be life-threatening
Prevention	Good hand washing	Good hand washing, avoid sick people and places with a lot of people - malls, stores, etc
Treatment	Temporary relief of symptoms with over-the-counter meds	Antiviral medications—see your doctor

Athletics

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

Basketball season has started for our Varsity Boys and Girls teams. Both teams have had some very exciting games in this early season. Each team has 16 regular season games scheduled and one tournament. In addition to those games both teams hope to make the playoffs this year! Basketball schedules are on the WSD web page, and can be accessed by clicking on Athletics.

We are excited to be hosting the 30th Annual Western States Basketball Classic (WSBC) and Western States Cheer Competition (WSCC) February 2-4, 2006. Seven schools will be participating in this year’s tournament, WSD, Oregon School for the Deaf, Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind, Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, Phoenix Day School for the Deaf, California School for the Deaf - Riverside and California School for the Deaf - Fremont. Please visit our web page, www.wsd.wa.gov for more information about WSBC.

If you don't have access to a computer or printer please have your student ask a WSD staff member to print you a copy of information needed.

Inclement Weather - How do I know if there is school or not?

Administration

In the event that our school is closed due to inclement weather you can learn of our closure in the following ways...

Day Students

- Watch the local news for up-to-date information on school closures
- Call our Information Line at (360) 696-6525 ext. 4332 or direct at (360) 418-4332. The line is setup for both voice and tty callers
- Access our WSD webpage for current up-to-date school closures

Residential Students

- If the students are in traveling status, the monitor and/or transportation secretary will phone you and let you know.
- If the students are not in travel status and are here on campus, they will stay on campus and participate in daily activities instead of going to school.

Charter Bus Update - For Residential Students

Sharon Caton, Student Transportation

On November 22, 2005; General Administration in Olympia notified WSD that the contract for WSD north bus routes was suspended due to contract issues.

Due to the short notice and strong consideration for Thanksgiving holiday traffic throughout the I-5 corridor, WSD opted to use various methods to transport the students residing along I-5 home on November 23rd and returning to WSD November 27th. We utilized a WSD car to transport those students that reside closest to the school; a WSD van to transport students residing north of Castle Rock to Olympia; and our school bus transported the remainder of the students residing from Tacoma to Mount Vernon. All parents/guardians were notified prior to transportation on November 23rd and a letter was hand delivered to the parents/guardians at each stop.

General Administration has implemented a short term fix by appointing the east bus service provider, A&A Motorcoach to cover the north routes throughout December. Hopefully a permanent plan will be developed for transporting North students after winter break. As always, parents will be notified of all changes regarding weekend transport.

From the WSD residential / transportation department we wish you all a happy and relaxing holiday.

Interested in Learning American Sign Language?

Nikki Ekle, ASL Specialist

Interested in learning American Sign Language but not sure where to start? The Washington School for the Deaf offers American Sign Language classes three times a year in the fall, winter and spring for anyone who is interested. Our winter session is January 9 - March 23, 2006. Our classes are for all age levels. For youth we have Parent/Infant/Toddler classes, and ASL for High School Students. For adults we have ASL 1, ASL 2, ASL 3, and ASL 4.

The Washington School for the Deaf also offers Total Immersion Sign Language Programs. The High School student session will be March 3 - 5, 2006 and the Adult sessions will be June 20 - 25, 2006 AND June 27 - July 2, 2006.

Registration information for both American Sign Language Classes and the Total Immersion Sign Language Programs can be found on our webpage at www.wsd.wa.gov by clicking on Community Education/Camps/Classes under our Program and Services option.

If your schedule does not allow for you to take one of our ASL classes, we also have a Lending Library that allows parents, family members, and anyone from the community to check out videotapes, DVD’s, books and other materials on American Sign Language. If you are interested in learning more about our Lending Library or would like to request materials you can contact Kelly Perez in our Administration Office at (360) 696-6525 ext. 4362 (v/tty) or you can email her at kelly.perez@wsd.wa.gov.

If you have any questions regarding our American Sign Language Classes and Total Immersion Sign Language Programs, please contact Nikki Ekle at (360) 696-6525 ext. 1665 (tty) or you can email her at nikki.ekle@wsd.wa.gov.



New Employees

April Rounds, Human Resources

The Washington School for the Deaf would like to welcome the following employees to our school.

Full-time employees:

Shauna Bilyeu, Teacher
Demetrius Castacio, Trades Helper
Robin Johnson, Student Life Counselor
MaryClare Litzen, SRVOP Administrative Assistant
Caprice Pearce, Food Service Aide
Kelly Perez, Office Assistant
Howie Seago, SRVOP Program Manager
Matt Stefano, Teacher
Travis Zollo, Custodian

On-call employees:

Stephanie Barney, Food Service Aide
John Dunsmore, Teacher
Amy Ellis, Teacher
Laurie Guggenheim, Teacher
Rob McArthur, Student Life Counselor
Melody Mendenhall, Custodian
Melissa Miller, Student Life Counselor
Raye Schafer, Teacher
Dudley Tuttle, Student Life Counselor
Rusty Wales, Teacher
Tiffany West, Student Life Counselor